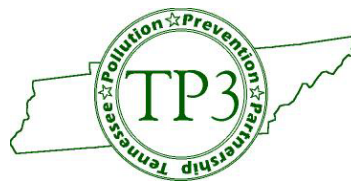


Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Turn down the heat

The Member

Delta Faucet Co. started up production in its Jackson, Tennessee, facility in August 1995. The operation started with less than 50 people working one shift. Today, the facility employs over 500 associates that are working three shifts. Construction has also begun on a 250,000 square foot central distribution center located adjacent to the Jackson plant. The Jackson facility has reached milestones of one million and five million faucets produced within its first five years.

The Story

In our Machining Department, faucet components go through a process called degreasing. The degreaser consists of seven tanks, each with a volume of approximately 650 gallons, containing coolant and a washing compound. The degreaser removes the excess oil and grease from parts. Five of the tanks were heated to a temperature of 165 degrees, while the remaining two were heated to a temperature of 185 degrees. The tanks are heated with natural gas.

In January 2003, the coolant used in the degreaser was changed to a different type, and the washing compound used in the tanks was replaced with water. After these changes took place, we ran oil and grease tests on the parts coming out of the degreaser. The oil and grease numbers were ten times less than previous tests. Over a period of 4 months, we experimented with

lowering the temperature on each tank and continuing to monitor oil and grease test results. They continued to remain at low levels.

The Success

Today, the five tanks that previously ran at 165 degrees now run at room temperature (approximately 70 degrees), and the tanks that ran at 185 degrees now run at 85 degrees; i.e. only 2 tanks require heating. Parts that are run through the degreaser remain at a high level of quality, while energy use is greatly decreased. Chemical cost savings are approximately \$2000/month.

The Pollution Prevented

By reducing the temperature of tanks on the degreaser, Delta Faucet will use approximately 1,500,000 BTUs per year. That is a savings of 99.95% from 2002's usage of 2,840,247,446 BTUs to heat the tanks.

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